

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

The media mergers that have occurred have significantly changed the character of the mainstream media. Your commission argues that broadcast television isn't as essential a news source as it once was because of alternative outlets such as the internet and newspapers. While the commission is correct in placing the utmost importance on this kind of media diversity, the fact is that these sources often operate under the same ownership as television stations. It is imperative that these media outlets be independent to ensure full and accurate news coverage and the expression of a wide range of opinions.